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Message Text

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53
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01

/058 W
---------- 037787
R 061334Z MAY 75
FM AMCONSUL MUNICH
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5760
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
USMISSION USBERLIN
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT
AMCONSUL BREMEN
AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF
AMCONSUL HAMBURG
AMCONSUL STUTTGART

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, GW
SUBJECT: CSU REACTION TO MAY 4 ELECTIONS

1) CSU REACTED TO SAAR AND NORTH-RHINE-WESTPHALIAN ELECTIONS BY RAISING AGAIN SPECTRE OF STRAUSS CANDIDACY FOR FEDERAL CHANCELLOR. AT CSU PRESS CONFERENCE MAY 5 SECRETARY GENERAL TANDLER ANNOUNCED THAT AT JUST ENDED SESSION OF PARTY'S PRESIDIUM AND BOARD, BROAD MAJORITY AGREED THAT STRAUSS SHOULD MAKE HIMSELF AVAILABLE AS CANDIDATE. TANDLER ADDED THAT PRESIDIUM AND BOARD CAREFULLY AVOIDED ASKING STRAUSS HOW HE FELT ABOUT IT. STRAUSS, WHO WAS PRESENT AT PRESS CONFERENCE, MADE NO COMMENT.

2) STRAUSS AND TANDLER ALSO MADE CLEAR THAT CSU WAS NOT GOING TO BE RUSHED INTO AGREEMENT WITH CDU ON CANDIDATE OR PROGRAM. THEY ANNOUNCED CSU HAS ESTABLISHED TWO COMMITTEES, ONE TO NEGOTIATE WITH CDU, AND ONE TO DRAFT CSU POLITICAL PLATFORM. LATTER COMMITTEE IS TO PRODUCE DRAFT BY MAY 26, AND THIS WILL
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BE CONSIDERED BY PARTY'S LEADING BODY JUNE 7, SO

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JOINT MEETING WITH CDU IS NOT POSSIBLE EARLIER THAN JUNE 9 OR 10. STRUASS INSISTED THERE MUST BE AGGREEMENT WITH CDU ON PLATFORM BEFORE PERSONNEL QUESTIONS, INCLUDING THAT OF CHANCELLOR CANDIDATE, CAN BE RESOLVED. TANDLER ADDED THAT THERE HAD NEVER BEEN ANY AGREEMENT THAT PERSONNEL AND PROGRAM QUESTIONS SHOULD BE SETTLED BEFORE CDU CONVENTION. ASKED WHAT PRECISE TIME FRAME CSU HAD IN MIND (CHRISTMAS, EASTER?), STRAUSS REPLIED THIS DEPENDED ON PROGRESS OF NEGOTIATIONS. IN ANSWER TO QUESTION, STRAUSS REJECTED EXPANSION OF CSU NATION-WIDE, SAYING CSU DID NOT WANT TO FORM FOURTH PARTY.

3) COMMENT: CSU IS PRESUMABLY OPERATING ON THEORY THAT GOOD OFFENSE IS BEST DEFENSE. WHILE IT COULD CLAIM ITS POSITION HAS BEEN STRENGTHENED VIS-A-VIS CDU BECAUSE LATEST ELECTIONS SHOW LATTER TO HAVE LOST MOMENTUM, IT UNDOUBTEDLY SEES ITS POSITION AS HAVING IN FACT WEAKENED. WITH COALITION PARTIES PICKING UP AGAIN, CSU'S LINE OF SHARP CONFRONTATION LOOKS LESS PROMISING THAN IT DID SEVERAL MONTHS AGO. CSU CAN ALSO PRESUMABLY ANTICIPATE UNFAVORABLE RESULT FROM STUDY CDU REPORTEDLY IS MAKING ON ESTENT TO WHICH STRAUSS'S ASSISTANCE IN LATEST CAMPAIGNS WAS ASSET OR LIABILITY. RERAISING OF STRAUSS CANDIDACY SEEMS TO BE ESSENTIALLY TACTIC TO ENCHANCE WHAT APPEARS TO BE WEAKENED BARGAINING POSITION ON QUESTIONS OF PERSONNEL AND PROGRAM, AND NOT SERIOUS PROPOSAL. CSU APPEARS DETERMINED TO FIGHT DOGGEDLY FOR HARD-LINE PROGRAM ON BOTH DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN POLICY ISSUES. SPIVACK

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